

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A device for triggering a restraint system (45), the device triggering the restraint system (45) in response to a crash as a function of at least one criterion derived from an acceleration signal (22, 52),

wherein the device is connectable to a precrash sensor system (41), and the device is configured in such a way that the device deploys a second stage of an airbag as a function of a linkage of the at least one criterion and a closing velocity (21, 32, 51) which the device receives from the precrash sensor system (41).

2. The device as recited in Claim 1, wherein the at least one criterion is a first deployment time (31) for the first airbag stage.

3. The device as recited in Claim 2, wherein the device is configured in such a way that the device defines at least one class (61, 63, 65) as a function of the first deployment time of a first stage of the airbag (31) and the closing velocity (21, 32, 51), a specific class (61, 63, 65) establishing a second deployment time (24, 34, 59) for the second airbag stage.

4. The device as recited in Claim 3, wherein the device is configured in such a way that the device does not trigger the second airbag stage at a closing velocity below a previously established limit (67).

5. The device as recited in Claim 3, wherein the device defines a class (61, 63, 65) which distinguishes between non-deployment and deployment.